

Message Text

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17

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-02 H-02

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 AID-05 IGA-01 DODE-00 SY-05

MC-02 EB-07 OMB-01 /068 W

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R 200652Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4404

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 6383

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: IR, IS, JO, KU, MCAP, MICI, MASS, SA, SF

SUBJECT: PUBLIC RELEASE OF FMS/MAP DETAILS ON ARAB COUNTRIES,
IRAN AND ISRAEL

REF: STATE 108266

1. GIVEN THE LOCAL POLITICAL SCENE, THERE IS NO ONE AVAILABLE WITH WHOM WE COULD DISCUSS REFTEL WITHOUT OPENING A CAN OF WORMS. WE BELIEVE, HOWEVER, GOL WOULD BE CONCERNED IF THE DETAILS OF OUR CURRENT FMS CREDIT AND MAP PROGRAMS WERE MADE PUBLIC. THE DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL THAT WHEN THE U.S. PRESS ANNOUNCED THAT THE USG WAS SELLING TOWS TO LEBANON, THE GOL DENIED IT. GOL WOULD ALSO BE CONCERNED BY THE SIZE OF THE CREDIT COMPARED WITH THAT OF ISRAEL, JORDAN, ETC., WHICH WOULD LEAD TO ATTACKS IN PARLIAMENT AND IN THE PRESS BY LEFTISTS AND NEUTRALISTS AND THE FACT THAT THE RELEASE OF SUCH INFORMATION COULD INCREASE THE PRESSURE ON THE GOVERNMENT BY PARLIAMENT AND OTHERS TO PURCHASE SOVIET ARMS AS
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WELL. IT COULD ALSO LEAD TO PRESSURE FOR GREATER US

AID.

2. AS FAR AS THE EQUIPMENT INVOLVED IS CONCERNED, THE
ANTI INTRUSION DEVICES PURCHASED UNDER FMS ARE CLASSIFIED AND
WE BELIEVE THE GOL WOULD BE PARTICULARLY DISTURBED IF THIS
SALE BECAME PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE.

3. THEREFORE, IN THE
INTEREST OF OUR RELATIONS WITH THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT,
IT WOULD BE FAR PREFERABLE IF THE FMS/MAP PROGRAMS, SMALL
AS THEY ARE, WERE NOT MADE PUBLIC.
GODLEY

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NNN

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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To: STATE
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